

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A decoy nucleic acid, which can inhibit promoter activity by binding to the transcription factor of the Synoviolin gene promoter.

2. (Currently amended) A decoy nucleic acid selected from the following (a) or (b):

(a) A decoy nucleic acid consisting of ~~[[a]]~~ the nucleic acid sequence as ~~shown in of~~ SEQ ID NO: 11 or 12; or

(b) A decoy nucleic acid consisting of ~~[[a]]~~ the nucleic acid sequence as ~~shown in of~~ SEQ ID No: 11 or 12 having deletion, substitution or addition of one or several nucleic acids, and has a function of inhibiting Synoviolin gene promoter activity.

3. (Currently amended) A decoy nucleic acid selected from the following (a) or (b):

(a) A decoy nucleic acid consisting of ~~[[a]]~~ the nucleic acid sequence as ~~shown in~~ sequences of SEQ ID NO: 11 and 12; or

(b) A decoy nucleic acid consisting of ~~[[a]]~~ the nucleic acid sequence as ~~shown in~~ sequences of SEQ ID No: 11 and 12 having deletion, substitution or addition of one or several nucleic acids, and has a function of inhibiting Synoviolin gene promoter activity.

4. (Original) The nucleic acid according to claim 2 or 3, wherein the function of inhibiting the Synoviolin gene promoter activity is a function of binding with a transcription factor of the Synoviolin gene promoter.

5. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid according to any one of claims 1 to ~~[[4]]~~ 3, which is designed based on a nucleotide sequence at the transcription factor binding site selected from a group consisting of EBS, SBS and ABS.

6. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid according to any one of claims 1 to ~~[[5]]~~ 3, which is able to induce apoptosis in a synovial cell or a cancer cell.

7. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition ~~containing~~ comprising the nucleic acid according to any one of claims 1 to ~~[[6]]~~ 3 ~~for treating and preventing diseases attributed to the expression of the Synoviolin gene.~~

8. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 7, further ~~containing~~ comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting the transcription activity of the Synoviolin transcription factor in a cell, comprising using transfecting the cell with the nucleic acid according to any one of claims 1 to ~~[[6]]~~ 3.

11. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting the Synoviolin promoter activity in a cell, comprising using transfecting the cell with the nucleic acid according to any one of claims 1 to ~~[[6]]~~ 3.

12. (Currently amended) A method of suppressing the expression of Synoviolin, comprising ~~[[by]]~~ inhibiting the Synoviolin promoter activity using the nucleic acid according to any one of claims 1 to ~~[[6]]~~ 3.

13. (Currently amended) A method of inducing apoptosis in a synovial cell or a cancer cell, comprising using transfecting the cell with the nucleic acid according to any one of claims 1 to ~~[[6]]~~ 3.

14. (New) A method of treating or preventing a disease attributed to the expression of the Synoviolin gene, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 7.

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15. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the disease is at least one selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis, fibrosis, cancers, and cerebral and neural diseases.